

Message Text

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TAGS: ECON, UN, XG

SUBJECT: ECE - 23RD SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

SUMMARY. SESSION WAS SUBDUED AND BUSINESSLIKE WITH EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR EXPANDING EAST-WEST TRADE. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REFERRED TO CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT AND LIBERALIZATION OF EAST-WEST TRADE AND OFFERED ASSISTANCE TO FURTHER BUSINESS CONTACTS AND REMOVE REMAINING OBSTACLES THROUGH ECE. GENERAL STATEMENTS REFLECTED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH EAST-WEST TRADE WITH ONLY PASSING CRITICISM BY EAST TO SOME OBSTACLES TO THEIR EXPORTS SUCH AS EC MEAT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS. US STRESSED DESIRE FOR INCREASED TRADE WITH EAST AND HOPE THAT AUTHORITY FOR MFN TO NON-MARKET COUNTRIES WILL BE AUTHORIZED BY END OF YEAR.

COMMITTEE DEFERRED MEETINGS OF EAST WEST TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION EXPERTS UNTIL RESULTS OF CSCE ARE KNOWN. THIRD MARKETING SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN MAY WITH PREPARATORY MEETING IN JANUARY ON SUBJECT OF LICENSING AND LEASING.

STUDY ON INTRA-EUROPEAN TEMPORARY LABOR MIGRATION

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AUTHORIZED (FOR BENEFIT OF LDCS). STRONG ENDORSEMENT

GIVEN TO WORK ON TRADE PROCEDURES AND STANDARDIZATION.
END SUMMARY.

1. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK REFERRED TO INCREASED LEVEL OF GLOBAL TRADE IN EAST-WEST TRADE DURING PAST YEAR BUT NOTED THAT INFLATION IN EXPORT PRICES HAD SERIOUS IMPACT. HE DWELT ON FOOD AND ENERGY SITUATION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS RESULT OF STRUCTURAL FACTORS IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND IN THE ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETS RATHER THAN A LACK OF RESOURCES.

2. STANOVNIK CALLED FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR WITH RESTRUCTURING OF PRODUCTION AND TRADE PATTERNS TO CHANGE TRADITIONAL EXCHANGE OF MANUFACTURED EXPORTS FROM THE WEST AND PRIMARY PRODUCTS FROM THE EAST. PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION THEREFORE ASSUMES PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE.

3. STANOVNIK POINTED OUT THAT BASIC PAPER FOR SESSION (TRADE/R.300) SHOWED HOW TRADE POLICY INSTRUMENTS HAVE DEVELOPED STEP BY STEP AS A MAJOR FACTOR IN EXPANSION OF EAST-WEST TRADE. HE ADDED THAT "IT IS TO BE VERY MUCH HOPED THAT THE RECENT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES WILL LEAD TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE MFN PROBLEM." ONCE THIS IS RESOLVED COMMITTEE CAN CONCENTRATE ON PRACTICAL PROBLEMS. QRS STILL A PROBLEM BUT ENCOURAGING THAT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS SEEKING TO REDUCE OR REMOVE QRS. IF QRS MUST BE APPLIED THEY SHOULD BE NON-DISCRIMINATORY.

4. STANOVNIK NOTED THAT PRACTICALLY ALL BILATERAL CHANNELS WITHIN THE REGION ARE NOW COVERED BY LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS. HE PROPOSED A NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE WHEREBY MEMBERS WOULD INFORM THE SECRETARIAT OF IMPORTANT CHANGES IN AGREEMENTS, TRADE POLICIES OR RULES GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL TRADE. HE ALSO INVITED THE COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS TO EXAMINE ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING EAST-WEST TRADE.

5. STANOVNIK EXPRESSED HOPE FOR RECOGNITION OF NEW
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POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REALITIES FOLLOWING CSCE AND THAT ECE COULD BE HELPFUL IN PROMOTING CONTACTS AMONG SUB-REGIONAL GROUPINGS. HE RECOMMENDED CONVENING OF ANOTHER AD HOC INFORMAL MEETING OF TRADE EXPERTS, DE-RESTRICTION OF CERTAIN ECE DOCUMENTS TO PERMIT WIDE CIRCULATION AND A LARGE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR BUSINESSMEN TO INFORM THEM OF MATERIALS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN ECE AND THE WORK OF VARIOUS BODIES. FINALLY, STANOVNIK PROPOSED A STUDY ON

LABOR-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF LDC
MEMBER COUNTRIES.

6. 29 DELEGATIONS AND OBSERVERS SPOKE IN GENERAL DEBATE WHICH WAS SUBDUED AND NON-CONTENTIOUS. ALL MADE REFERENCE TO THEIR ROLE IN EAST-WEST TRADE DEVELOPMENTS AND TO ECONOMIC FACTORS UNDERLYING THE PRESENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS FOR TRADE. STRESS WAS PLACED ON LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS AND ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. THE EASTERN DELEGATIONS AMDE ONLY PASSING REFERENCE TO DISCRIMINATION AND OBSTACLES TO TRADE BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIAL LIBERALIZATION. SPECIFIC REFERENCE WAS MADE BY POLAND AND HUNGARY TO EC RESTRICTIONS ON MEAT IMPORTS. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF MFN.

7. THE EC REPRESENTATIVE MADE LENGTHY STATEMENT WHICH WAS HIGHLY POSITIVE CONCERNING TRADE WITH EAST AND PROSPECTS. HE STATED THAT EC TRADE POLICY IS A REALITY AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN POLICY OF CONCLUDING EC AGREEMENTS WITH NON-MARKET COUNTRIES TO REPLACE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AFTER JANUARY 1, 1975. THE EC IS READY TO NEGOTIATE LONG TERM AGREEMENTS INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR RECIPROCITY AND EQUIVALENCE OF ADVANTAGES. A DRAFT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN PREPARED WHICH WILL BE ADAPTED TO INDIVIDUAL SITUATIONS. THE AGREEMENTS WILL INCLUDE MFN TREATMENT. EC LIBERALIZING QRS AND CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS. EAST DID NOT REACT TO THIS STATEMENT.

8. U.S. STATEMENT REVIEWED CHANGES IN FOREIGN TRADE DURING 1974 REFLECTING INCREASED COST OF ENERGY IMPORTS. STRESSED NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION TO MAKE ECONOMIC USE OF COLLECTIVE RESOURCES. NOTED CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF US TRADE WITH EAST AND DESIRE THAT THIS TRADE INCREASE STEADILY AND SIGNIFICANTLY.
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REFERRED TO US-USSR LONG-TERM AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE COOPERATION. EXPRESSED HOPE FOR ADOPTION OF TRA BEFORE END OF YEAR WHICH WOULD PERMIT MFN TREATMENT TO NON-MARKET COUNTRIES UNDER MUTUALLY AGREED RECIPROCAL CONDITIONS. ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO PRACTICAL WORK OF ECE IN EXPANDING EAST-WEST TRADE.

9. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO POSTPONE INFORMAL MEETING OF TRADE EXPERTS UNTIL RESULTS OF CSCE KNOWN. DATE OF MEETING COULD BE SET THROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES. SECOND MEETING OF EXPERTS ON INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION DEFERRED FOR SIMILAR REASONS BUT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR FALL OF 1975.

10. WIDE SUPPORT EXPRESSED FOR THIRD MARKETING SEMINAR

BUT WITH MORE LIMITED FOCUS AND SHORTER DURATION IN ORDER TO ATTRACT BUSINESS INTEREST. AGREED TO PREPARATORY MEETING 23-24 JANUARY 1975 AND SEMINAR FROM 13-16 MAY 1975 ON SUBJECT OF NEW MARKETING TECHNIQUES IN THE FIELD OF LICENSING (INCLUDING PATENTS AND TRADE MARKS) AND LEASING (INCLUDING FRANCHISING AND FACTORING). AD HOC MEETING OF EXPERTS ON ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTIONS TO BE HELD 2-6 JUNE 1975.

11. AGREED TO ENDORSE SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL FOR STUDY ON INTRA-EUROPEAN TEMPORARY MIGRATION OF LABOR: CONSEQUENCES FOR TRADE, INVESTMENT AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. THIS PROJECT DESIGNED TO MEET NEEDS OF LDCS OF THE REGION.

12. ALL MEMBERS GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO ECE ACTIVITIES RE IMPROVING INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROCEDURES AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION AFFECTING TRADE. IN RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REQUESTED TO REPORT TO COMMISSION CONCERN OVER DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED THROUGH LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROCEDURES.DALE

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